

### OP21.3

#### **Hippocrates 2.0 - how Hippocrates exchanges can benefit the host doctor, community and health care system?**

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**Background & Aim:** The Hippocrates Exchange Programme was created to encourage the exchange and mobility of young family doctors between European countries in order to promote professional and personal development while giving a unique opportunity for intercultural communication and peer collaboration. The multiple gains for young visitors have been recognized and widely disseminated in reports, articles and conferences. However, little has been said about the benefits for the host doctors. This presentation aims to share the potential benefits for the host doctor and community by accepting to host young international doctors to observe and engage in their activities.

**Method:** I will share my experience during a Hippocrates exchange held in London in 2015, where in addition to observe the daily work of a English General Practitioner, I participated actively in the development of a long-term project regarding the local Portuguese immigrant community, the Portuguese Community Engagement Project. This project works as a platform that bridges the gap between the National Health System (NHS) and this marginalised community by tailoring patient education to their cultural and linguistic needs. Recently, the project won a NHS health innovation fund.

**Results:** My experience proves that Hippocrates exchanges can directly benefit the host practice, community and health care system. The visitor can help the host doctor to engage with specific patient groups and be able to address more accurately their health needs. These exchanges can be exceptional opportunities to start international cooperation projects sensitive to European migration flows in order to adapt the provision of health care to certain migrant populations while promoting the effectiveness and sustainability of host health care systems.

**Conclusions:** The growth of Hippocrates exchanges is a reflection of the increasing mobility of citizens between European countries and can contribute to improve the provision of health care to increasingly multicultural populations.